

# Children's Administration Supporting Measures Monthly Trend Report



## March 2004



Department of Social and Health Services

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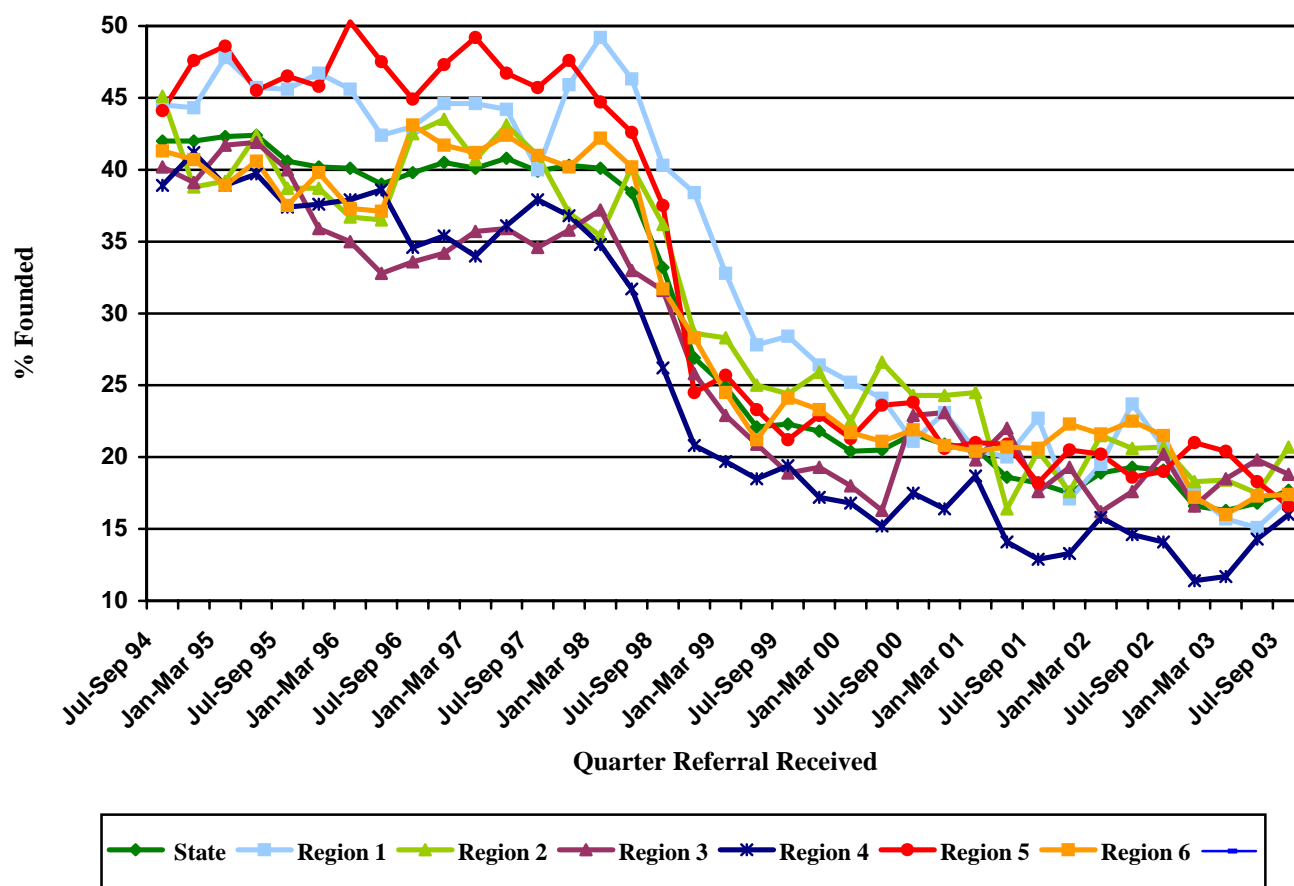
# SAFETY

## Trends in Founded Rate

For reference, the state and regional founded rates are shown here. The victim recurrence rates will decline if the founded rate declines, independent of any changes in practice that may affect the recurrence rates.

**Trend Analysis:** The proportion of all investigated CPS referrals that are founded has declined steeply in Washington State since implementation of the notification letter requirement, from around 40% in 1994 – 1998 to just above 20% in 2000 to early 2001. Similar declines in the founded rate have also been experienced in other states where notification letter requirements have been introduced. In these states, an initial decline has been followed after about two years by a gradual increase in the founded rate. The founded rate returns to levels close to those seen prior to implementation of notification letters. Washington State has started to see a gradual increase that began at the end of fiscal year 2001. The significant drop in the founded rate for the most recent reporting period is thought to be attributed to data lag. For the most recent reporting period the state and regions 1, 2 and 4 showed an increase while regions 3 and 5 showed a decrease or in the founded rate. Region 6 remained virtually unchanged.

Proportion of Investigated Referrals that were Founded



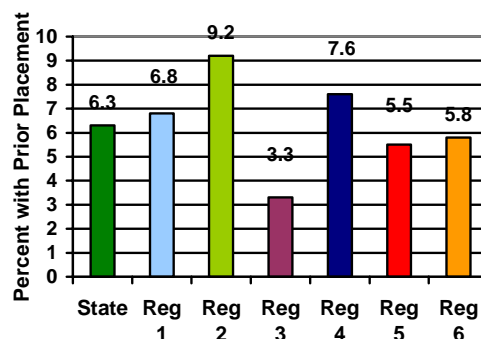
# Safety: Reduce CPS Placement Re-Entry

## Prior Placements

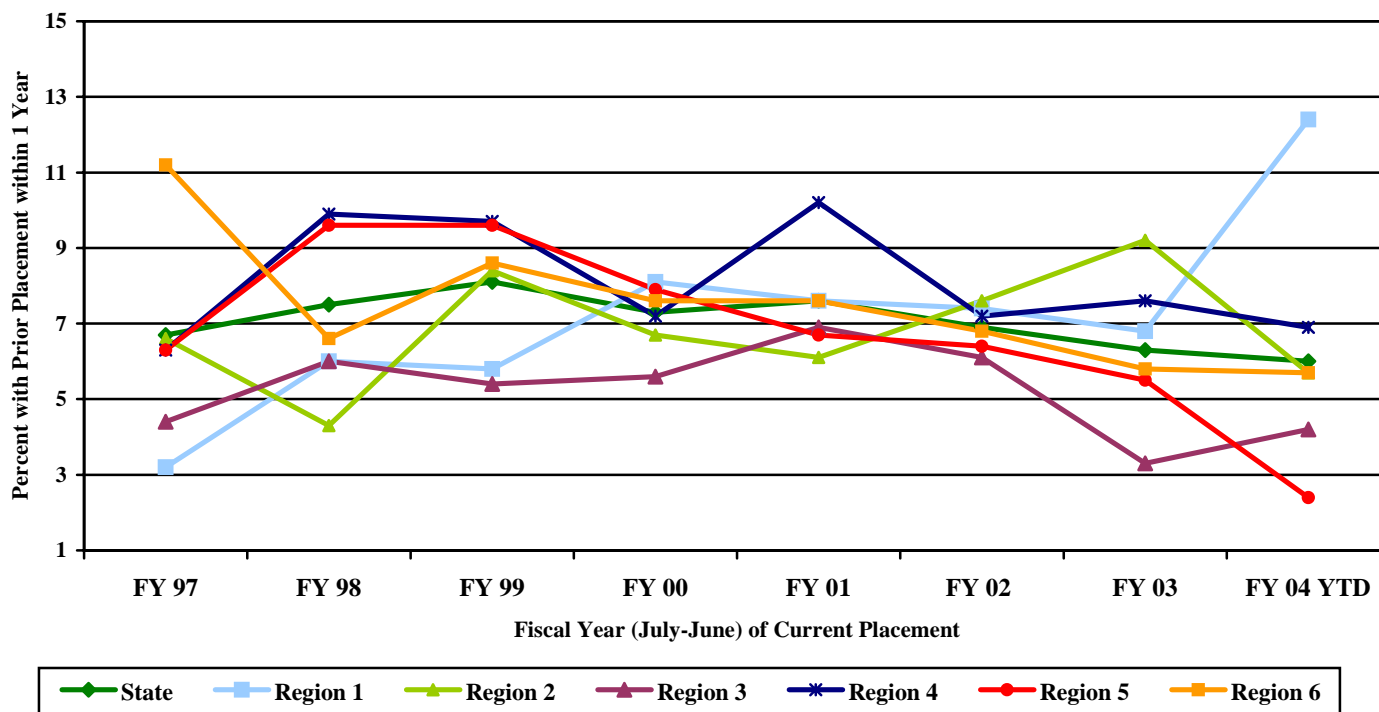
Percent of children currently in a CA/N-related placement who had a previous CA/N-related placement in the prior 12 months

**Trend Analysis:** Regions 1 and 3 showed an increase in the prior placement rate while the state and all other regions demonstrated a leveling off or decrease in the prior placement rate year to date.

Regional Performance, FY 2003



State and Regional Trends



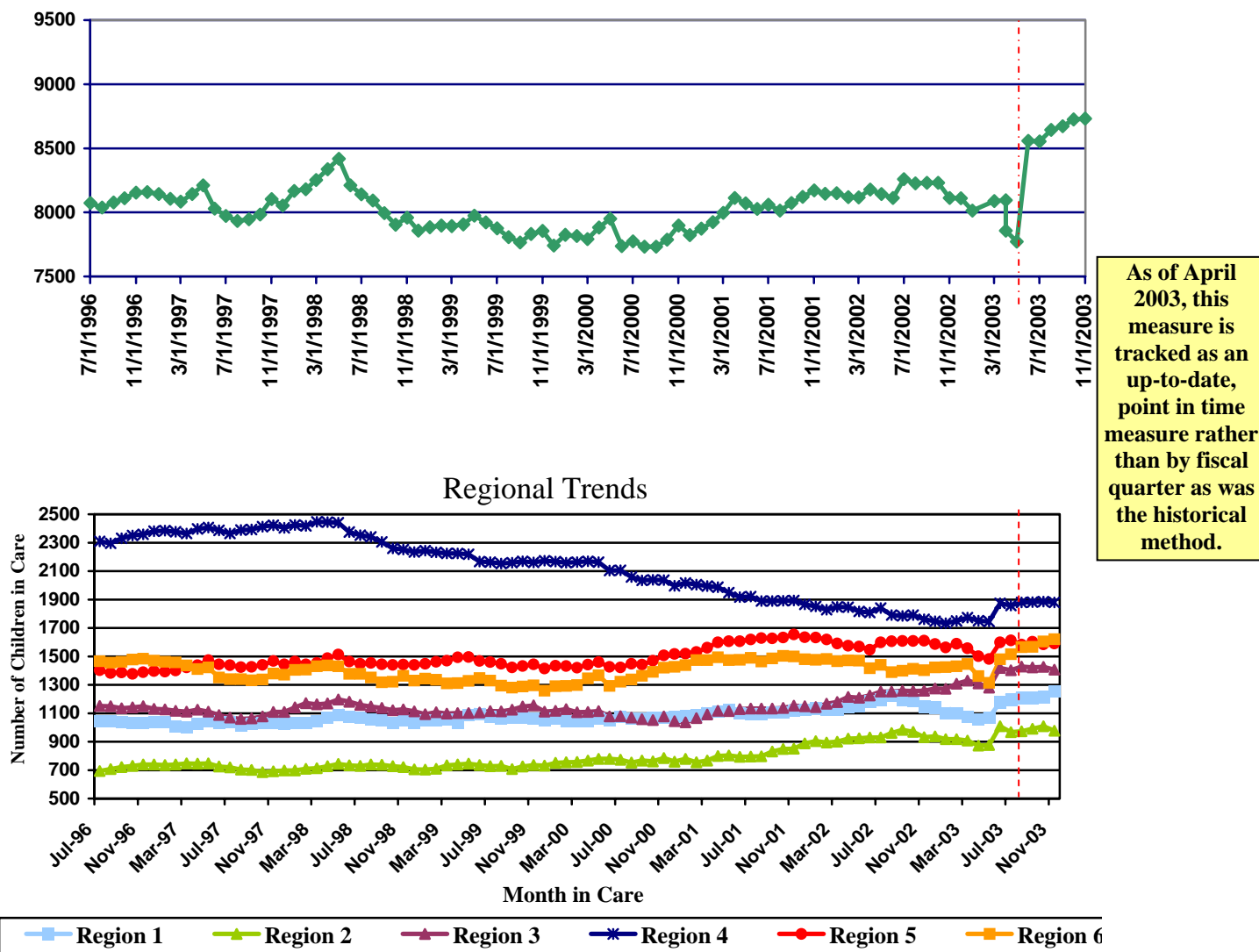
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** Due to the lack of a direct link in CAMIS between referral and placement data, this measure is NOT defined with reference to CPS referrals. Until a more reliable link between CPS placement and referral information is developed, we report here as a temporary substitute a “look back” placement measure that determines the percent of children placed for reasons of CA/N (placement reasons of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, abandonment, and inadequate housing other than homelessness). For those placed for reasons of CA/N in a given quarter for more than three days, we report the percentage who had a previous placement episode also with CA/N-related reasons lasting > 3 days. The previous episode must have closed at least two days before and within 12 months of the start of the current episode to be counted. (All episode outcomes are counted.) This measure using reason codes replaced the previous measure that counted placements with CPS program codes; trends and office-level data were re-calculated using the reason codes back to the third quarter of 1996 (FY 1997).

## PERMANENCY: TRENDS IN PLACEMENT

### Children in Out of Home Care

Number of children in DCFS custody in open placement episodes in a given month with lengths of stay/time in care of > 60 days (in-home dependencies excluded).

**Trend Analysis:** There has been an increase in the number of kids in care since July 2000. For the most recent reporting period there was an increase in the number of kids in out-of-home care.



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* This measure is an up-to-date point in time measure and includes children in care with all lengths of stay.

# Permanency: Trends in Placement

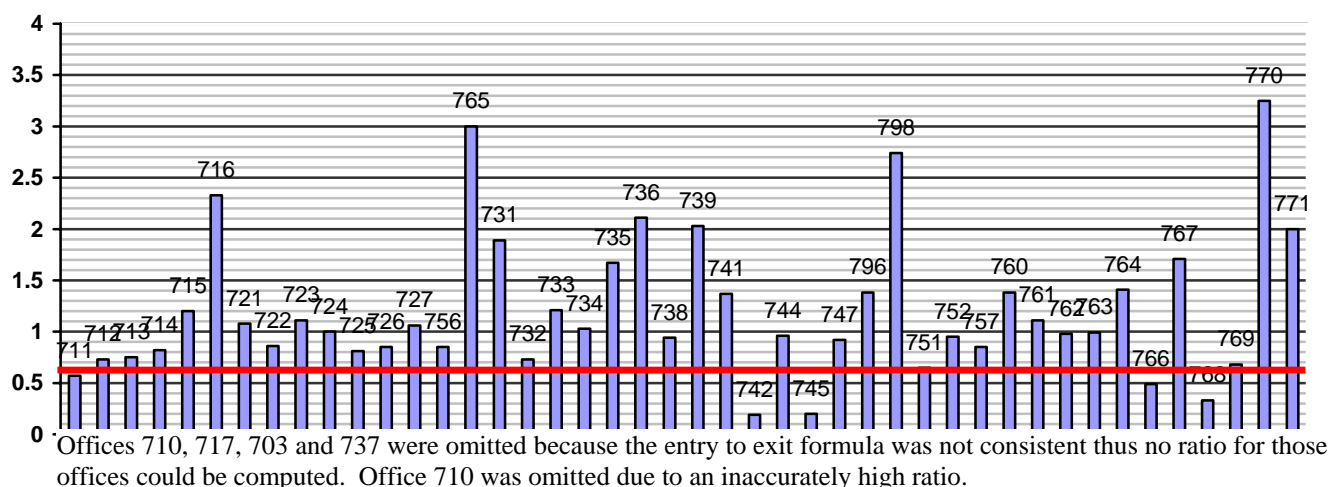
## Office Entry/Exit Ratio

Ratio of placement episode entries to exits for each office, for a given fiscal year, for children with lengths of stay/times in care of > 60 days.

**Trend Analysis:** If the number of children entering placement exceeds the number exiting placement during the same period, the entry/exit ratio will be larger than one and the number of children in open placement episodes will continue to increase. Thus, offices with entry/exit ratios larger than one for a given fiscal year consistently have more children in longer-term care (> 60 days) entering placement than leaving placement.

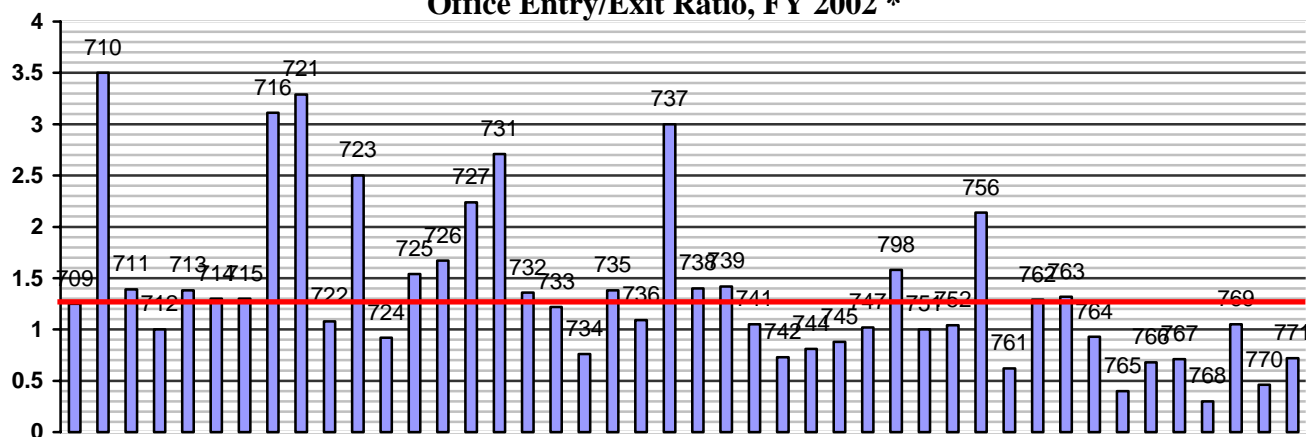
Data Labels Indicate Office Number, Ordered by Region

Office Entry/Exit Ratio, FY 2003 \*



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** This measure is now determined using our new method of correcting placement episode records for incorrectly documented in-home dependencies. The ratios were re-calculated in September, 2001, and are considerably different for some offices than those reported earlier. For children in DCFS custody only and in care for > 60 days; in-home dependencies excluded.

Office Entry/Exit Ratio, FY 2002 \*



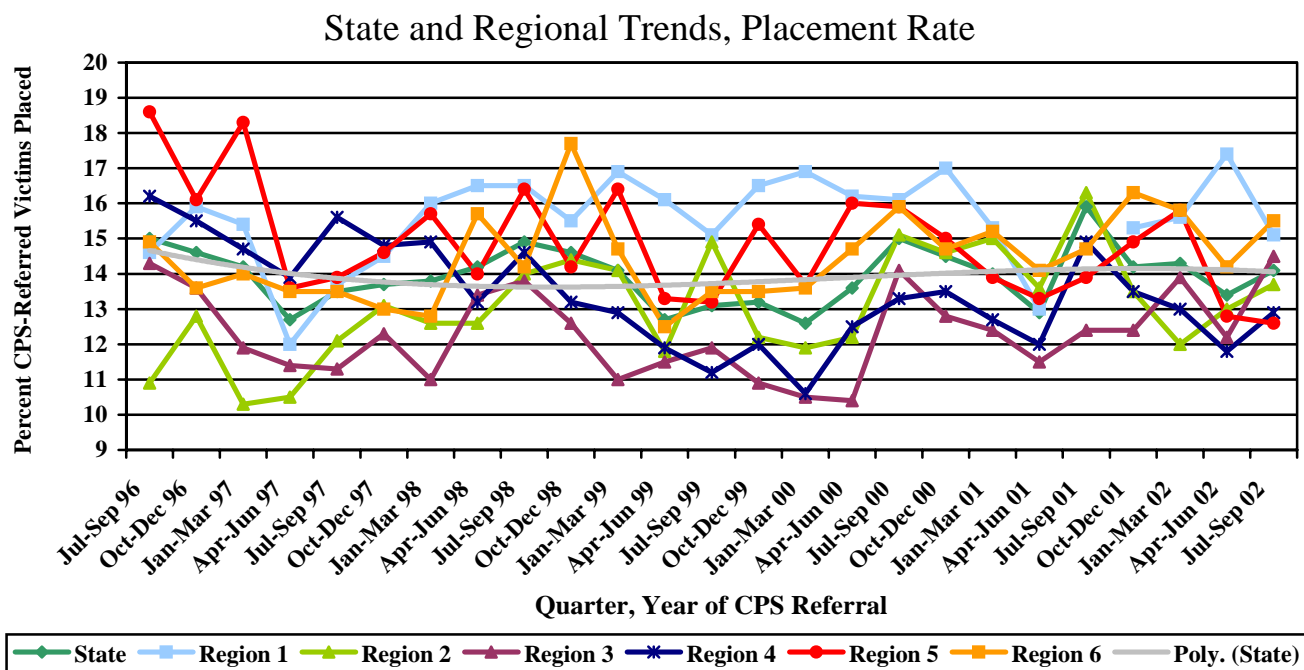
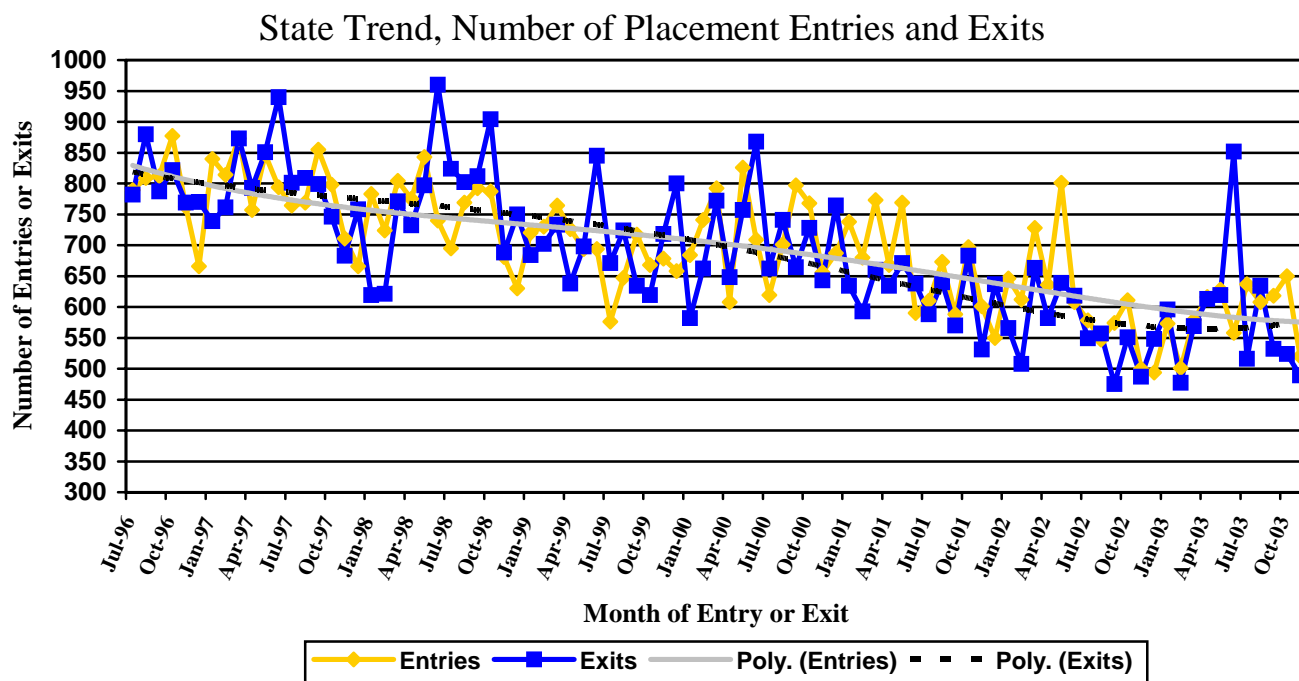
\* Offices 757 and 760 were not included in the 2002 entry/exit ratio chart. Due to office restructure, those office ratios were inaccurately high.

**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** This measure is now determined using our new method of correcting placement episode records for incorrectly documented in-home dependencies. Ratios for both fiscal years were re-calculated in September, 2001. FY 2000 ratios for some offices have changed substantially compared to the values previously reported.

# Permanency: Trends in Placement

## Number of Placement Entries, Exits, and Placement Rate

Number of children in DCFS custody entering and exiting placement episodes in a given month, for all lengths of stay; and the proportion of investigated child victims in CPS referrals placed from three days before to 12 months after referral.

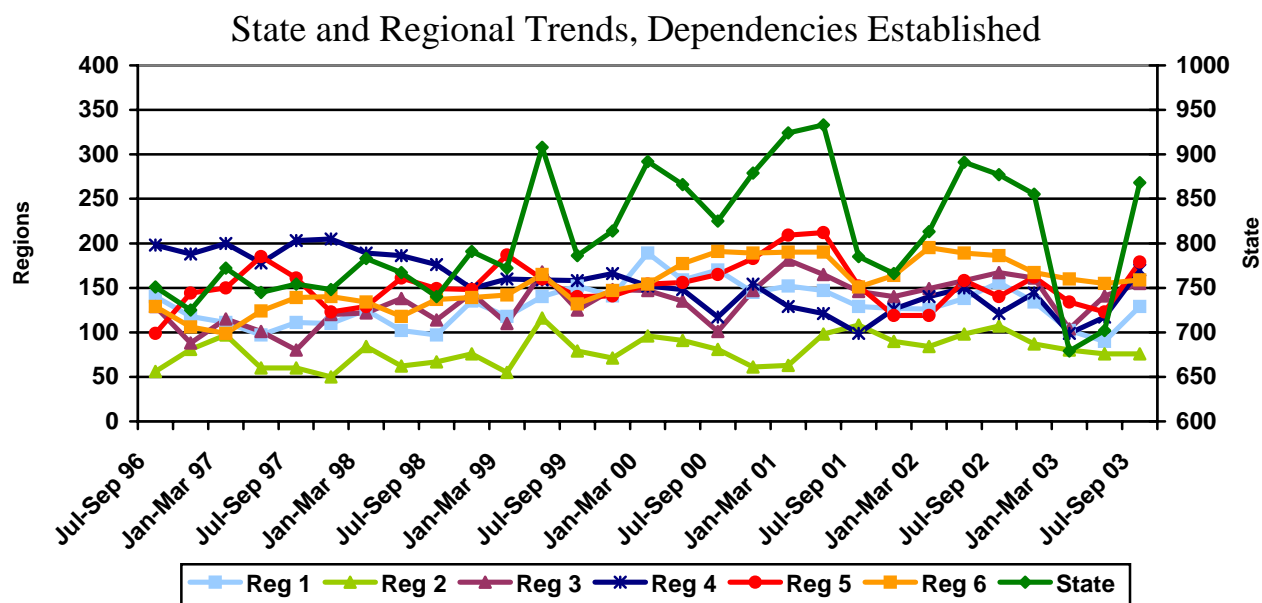


**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** This measure is determined using our new method of correcting placement episode records for incorrectly documented in-home dependencies. The trends were calculated in October, 2001.

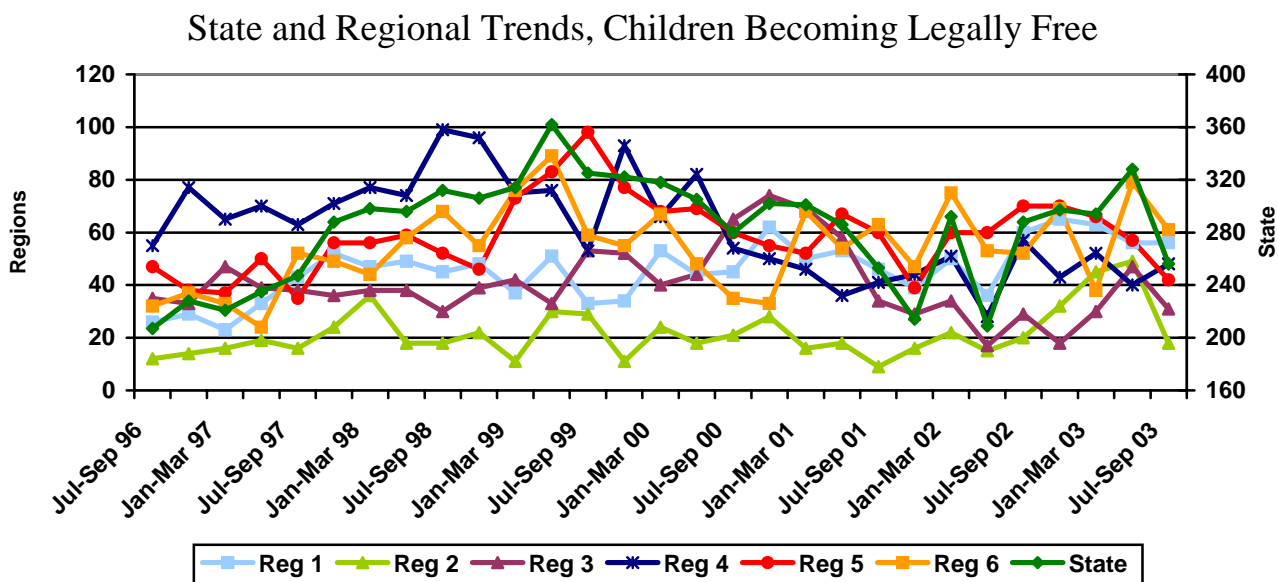
# Permanency: Trends in Placement

Trend Analysis: Regions 1, 2, 5 and 6 showed decreases for the most recent reporting period. Regions 3 and 4 showed increases for the same period. The number of children becoming legally free has fluctuated between 280 and 320 per quarter since 1997. There was a marked increase in the number of dependencies established in the most recent reporting period.

## Number of Out of Home Dependencies Established



## Number of Children Becoming Legally Free



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** These measures are counts of dependencies established (unduplicated counts of children in out of home care only) and children becoming legally free during the specified quarters. The count of dependencies includes a small proportion of children where disposition orders of out of home care are found in CAMIS legal actions but no dependency orders. The count of children becoming legally free includes children reaching that status while in guardianships as well as those in out of home care. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001.

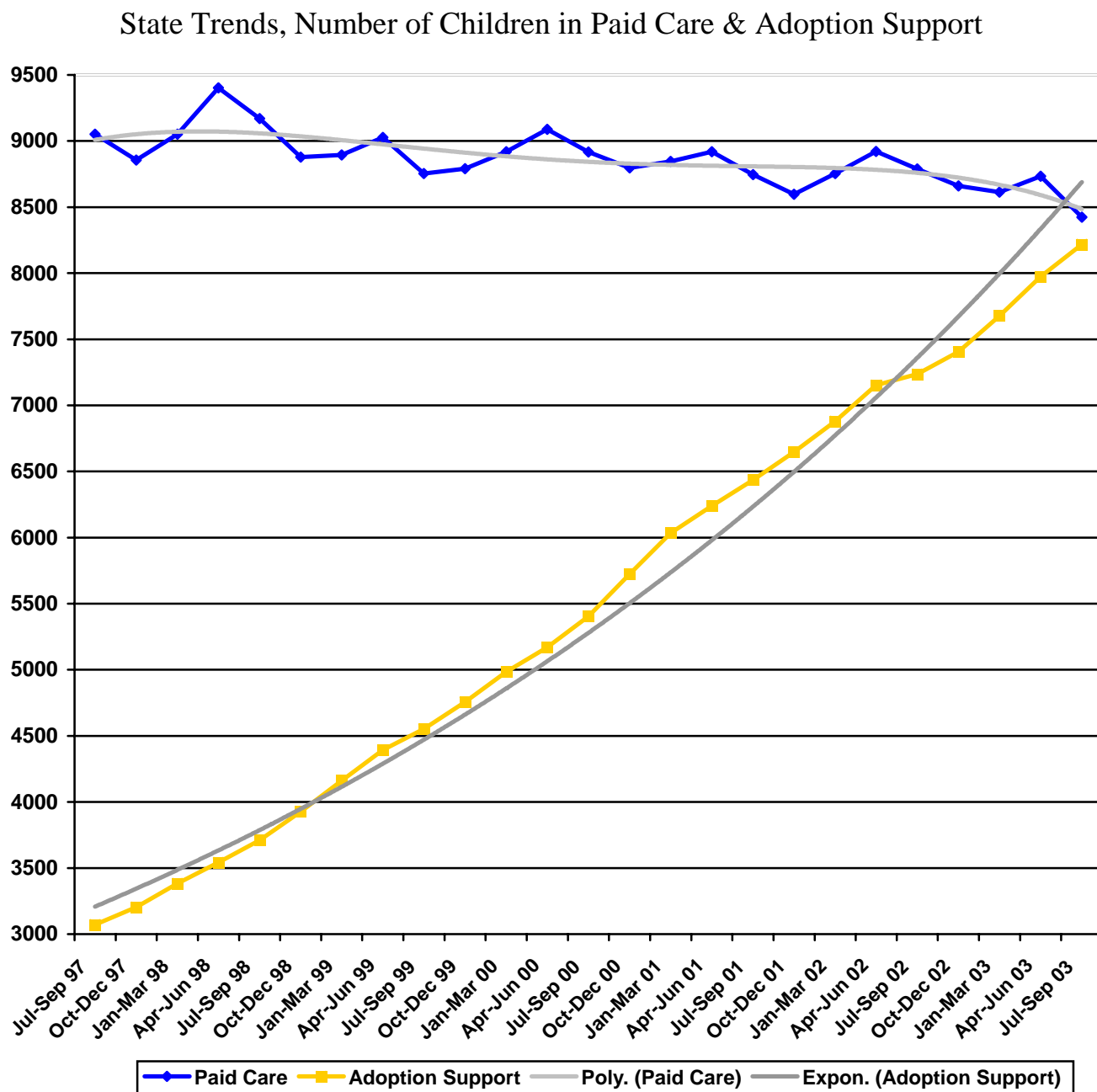


# Permanency: Trends in Placement

## Number of Children in Paid Care and Adoption Support

Number of children in paid care, for all custodies, types, lengths and costs of care, including guardianships and tribal custody; and number of children with adoption support.

**Trend Analysis:** While the number of children in *paid* foster care has remained steady or shown a slight decline when measured across the entire state, the number of children with adoption support has been increasing exponentially.



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* Reported from SSPS payment records, as the (unduplicated) number of children receiving payments for care of any type or amount in a given quarter.

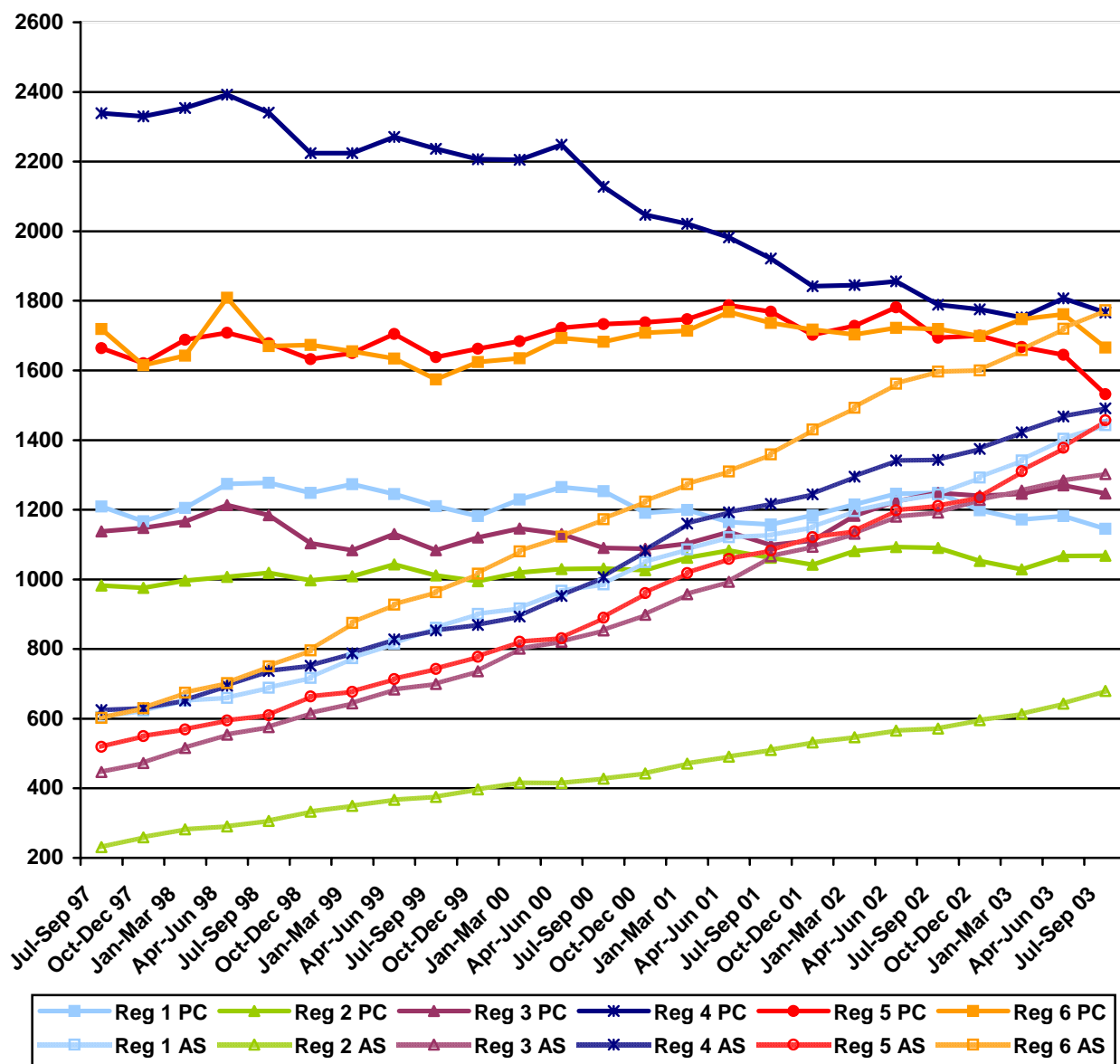
## Permanency: Trends in Placement

### Number of Children in Paid Care and Adoption Support

Number of children in paid care, for all custody types, lengths and costs of care, including guardianships and tribal custody; and number of children with adoption support.

**Trend Analysis:** The overall State trend in the number of children in paid care has decreased in recent years (see previous page). Recently regions 1, 4, 5 and 6 have shown marked decreases in the number of children in paid care and increases in those receiving adoption support.

### REGIONAL TRENDS, NUMBER OF CHILDREN



*Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:* Reported from SSPS payment records, as the (unduplicated) number of children receiving payments for care of any type or amount in a given quarter.

## PERMANENCY: INCREASE PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Adoptions: Percents of all children in care, and of all legally free children with plan of adoption

**Trend Analysis:** While the number of adoptions has increased in recent years, the proportion of children adopted as a percentage of all children in longer-term care has increased from 9.0% in FY 2002 to 10.6% in FY 2003. The percent of all legally free children with plans of adoption who actually have finalized adoptions has remained largely the same over the past three years.

Proportions Adopted in FY 2003

Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	13.8%	41.0%
2	7.7%	31.1%
3	7.7%	30.1%
4	9.2%	26.8%
5	14.1%	35.9%
6	10.3%	35.4%
State	10.6%	33.3%

Proportions Adopted in FY 2002

Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	7.6%	26.8%
2	4.6%	26.2%
3	11.6%	41.8%
4	8.2%	25.2%
5	9.9%	28.5%
6	10.4%	41.5%
State	9.0%	31.4%

Proportions Adopted in FY 2001

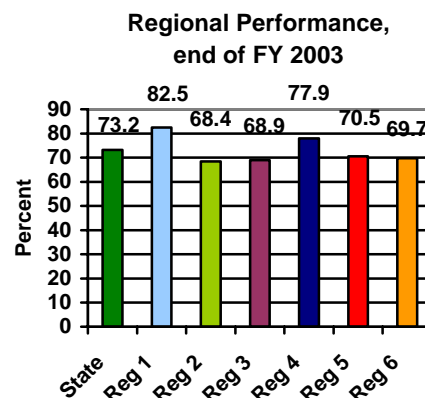
Region	Percent Adopted of all children in care > 60 days	Percent Adopted of all legally free children with plan of adoption
1	11%	34%
2	7%	36%
3	10%	30%
4	12%	33%
5	11%	30%
6	8%	34%
State	10.3%	32.3%

**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** These and all other adoption measures are determined from counts of episode closures with the placement result of adoption.

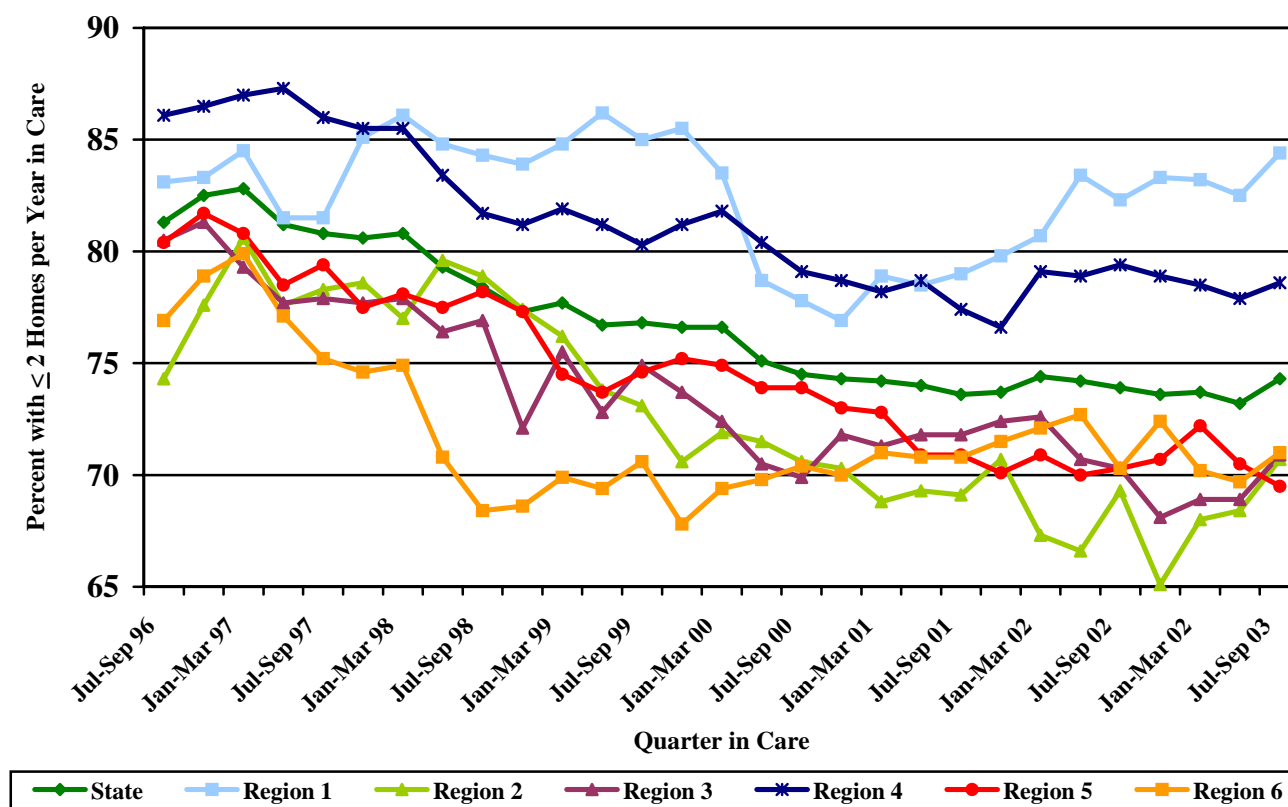
# Permanency: Alternative Stability Measures

Percent with no more than 2 placement homes per year in care

**Trend Analysis:** For the most recent reporting period, the state and all regions with the exception of region 5 showed increases while the remaining regions and the state as a whole demonstrated leveling or declining percentages.



State and Regional Trends



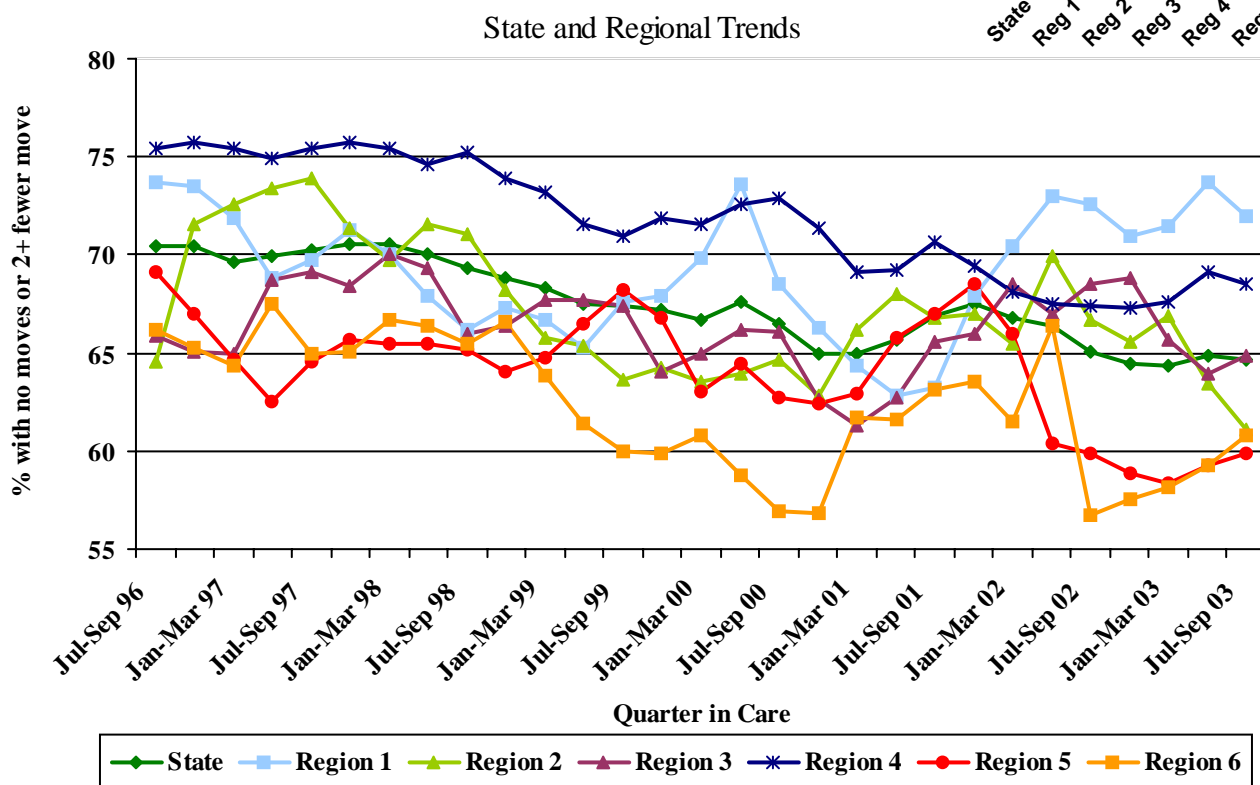
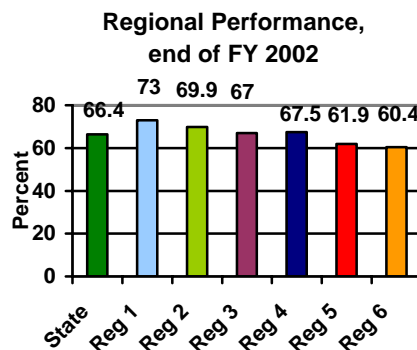
**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** The Federal stability measure only considers the number of placement events during the (up to) first 12 months in care. In order to provide a more complete picture of stability, we also report this measure for children currently in care for more than one year (DCFS custody only): the proportion with two or fewer different principle places of residence (unduplication by unique business ID) *per year in care*, counted across all episodes if children have been in care multiple times (i.e., if a child resides in the same home on multiple occasions, only one home is counted), after first applying the same event exclusion rules: respite, on-the-run, juvenile rehabilitation, detention, in-home dependencies, hospital, and events contiguous in time after these events are removed where the placement business ID has not changed. In addition, ANY type of event of less than 31 days duration that occurs between two events with the same business ID are excluded (only the first of such multiple "events" is counted). These exclusions are intended to approximate, as closely as possible, a count of only the child's principal places of residence. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001 and include our new method of correcting for in-home dependencies.

# Permanency: Alternative Stability Measures

## Placement Stabilization

Percent of children currently in care for at least two years with no moves during their most recent full year of care, or a reduction in moves of two or more compared to their previous full year in care

**Trend Analysis:** For the most recent reporting period, Regions 1, 2 and 4 showed decreases while regions 3, 5 and 6 demonstrated increases.



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** The Federal stability measure only considers the number of placement events during the (up to) first 12 months in care. In order to provide a more complete picture of stability, we also report this measure of placement *stabilization*: for children currently in care for more than two years (DCFS custody only): the proportion of children with either no moves during their most recent full year in care, or a reduction of moves of two or more compared to their previous full year in care. This measure thus counts as a success a child previously in an unstable placement who later becomes stabilized. The same events are excluded from these counts: respite, on-the-run, juvenile rehabilitation, detention, in-home dependencies, hospital, and events contiguous in time (after these events are removed) where the placement business ID has not changed. In addition, ANY type of event of less than 31 days duration that occurs between two events with the same business ID are excluded (only the first of such multiple "events" is counted). These exclusions are intended to approximate, as closely as possible, a count of only the child's principal places of residence. The trends were first calculated in December, 2001 and include our new method of correcting for in-home dependencies.

# Permanency: Time in Care

## Number in Care More Than Two Years and Median Time in Care

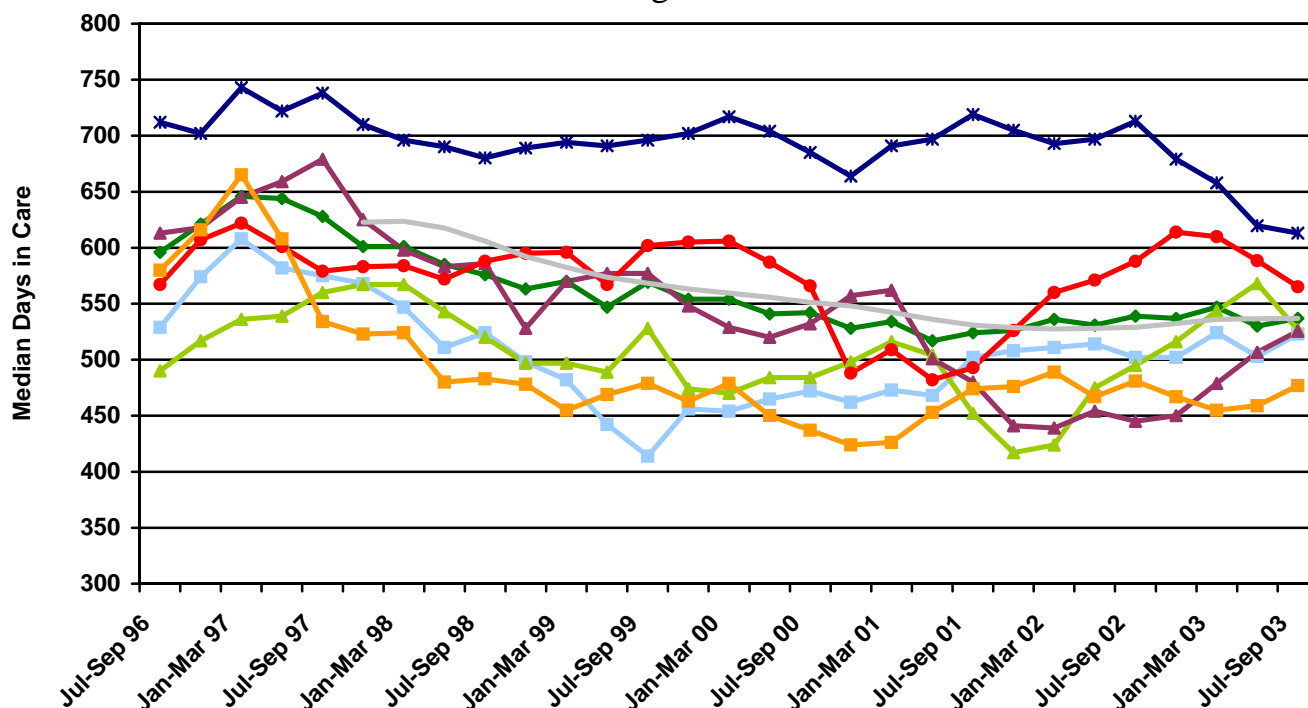
For reference, numbers of children in care for more than two years and trends in the median time in care for children in care > 60 days (open placements) are shown below.

**Trend Analysis:** The state as a whole demonstrated increases in the median number of days children spend in care and in the number of children in care more than two years.

Number of children in care for more than two years, as of end of reporting period

Region	FY 2001				FY 2002				FY 2003				FY 2004
	Jul-Sep 2000	Oct-Dec 2000	Jan-Mar 2001	Apr-Jun 2001	Jul-Sep 2001	Oct-Dec 2001	Jan-Mar 2002	Apr-Jun 2002	Jul-Sep 2002	Oct-Dec 2002	Jan-Mar 2003	Apr-Jun 2003	Jul-Aug 2004
1	310	315	357	368	362	367	374	417	412	400	392	351	352
2	260	255	275	279	268	267	270	288	319	280	308	282	306
3	387	373	377	415	406	365	366	359	366	350	392	386	409
4	982	921	946	957	937	906	892	876	866	829	799	748	728
5	559	547	573	574	562	560	564	556	621	634	648	563	570
6	407	407	421	442	456	438	453	442	441	445	407	387	372
State	2905	2818	2949	3035	2991	2903	2919	2938	3025	2938	2946	2717	2737

State and Regional Trends



**Explanatory Notes and Calculation Details:** This measure is now determined using our new method of correcting placement episode records for incorrectly documented in-home dependencies. The trends were calculated in September, 2001. Children in DCFS custody only, in care (open placement episodes) for more than 60 days as of the end of the reporting period.